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Davis Appoints Acting Regional Director, Minority Business Advocate

NEW ALBANY-Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis today named Tyler Graves as the acting director of the Region 12 office of the Indiana Department of Commerce and Dustin White as the State's Minority Business Advocate.

Graves will succeed White as the acting director of Commerce's Region 12 office, serving as the agency's chief representative in Harrison, Floyd, Clark, Scott, Washington, Orange and Crawford counties. In this capacity, Graves will be responsible for the delivery of agency services and the overall management of the regional office. In addition, he will be charged with developing and maintaining partnerships with regional businesses and community organizations; collaborating with regional governments and local organizations on economic development projects; evaluating regional development needs and educating the public on Commerce programs and services.

"Ty brings a commendable work ethic and a lot of enthusiasm to the directorship of Commerce's Region Twelve office," said Davis, who oversees the Indiana Department of Commerce. "Those are the kinds of qualities the governor and I are looking for in the people who are helping us bring business investment to all parts of the state."

Graves joined the Department of Commerce as a project manager in the agency's office of Public Affairs and Marketing and, most recently, he served as a Project Manager for Commerce's Business Attraction team. Before joining Commerce, Graves worked as the legislative liaison to the governor's office for the Department of Natural Resources and served in the governor's office as a member of the 20th Class of Governor's Fellows under late Gov. Frank O'Bannon. He holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism and successfully completed training through the Center for Economic and Community Development from Ball State University.

In his new position, Dustin White will act as a liaison between Commerce and minority-owned businesses in Indiana and will work within the department's Office of Small Business Advocacy.

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"Small businesses, and the minority-owned businesses among them, are incubators for many of the new ideas and new products that will strengthen our state's economy in the coming years," Davis said. "Dustin will work with the State's new Small Business Advocate, David Dorff, to make sure those businesses know how the State can help them succeed."

White, a native of Jeffersonville, came to the Indiana Department of Commerce after serving as Jeffersonville's interim executive director of redevelopment. White also served as Jeffersonville's assistant mayor and spent five years in Hungary working in the office of the prime minister and later as a consultant for his own company. A 1996 graduate of the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis, White earned his undergraduate degree from Wabash College and has served as an adjunct professor of philosophy at Indiana University Southeast.

For more information about the Indiana Department of Commerce, call 800.280.0584 or access the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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